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ized provident schemes is declared to be serious, and the normal incomes of physicians are injuriously affected by ill-regulated lay philanthropy in hospitals and out-patient service. The closing pages are devoted to showing that in the field of public relief the issue is sharply drawn between the modern doctrine of free contract and socialism: there is no logical middle ground. The inference is that outdoor relief must be abolished or we must go forward to measures like old-age pension and sickness insurance. If we make permanent provision for a class of paupers or dependents we shall have them forever, and the day of individual self-help will be by so much delayed. Of course the advocate of the German system of state insurance would claim that this begs the question, and that compulsory insurance is a means of avoiding pauperism. Mr. Mackay nowhere considers the German system, and alludes to it only indirectly when he attacks similar schemes as proposed for Great Britain.

C. R. HENDERSON.

Strikes and Lockouts (Board of Trade, Labour Department): *Report of the Chief Labour Correspondent on the Strikes and Lockouts of 1896*. With Statistical Tables. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1897. 8vo. pp. xliii + 209.

THIS report is in its general plan like its predecessors—giving the number of disputes, the number of workmen involved, the days lost, the distribution of disputes, geographically and by months, and the method of settlement.

It appears that the evil of strikes and lockouts has, on the whole, declined during the period from 1892 to 1896. The loss of time in 1893 was immensely greater than in 1892, because of the coal strike, but if the mining and quarrying industries be excepted, the numbers of days lost for the successive years are 12,005,561; 3,227,169; 2,787,613; 4,661,260; 2,737,399.

Mr. Burnett remarks that "the workmen were, on the whole, more successful in gaining their demands or resisting those of the employers in 1896 than in the previous years." From this it would naturally be inferred that the employers had been less successful in their contests with the men, whereas the tables show that they also have won in a larger percentage of disputes during 1896 than during earlier years.

This paradoxical appearance of victory for both sides is explained by a very great diminution in a number of disputes compromised or unsettled. If we take account of the number of disputes merely, without regard to the number of men involved, the employers are seen to have increased the percentage of victories much more than the workmen. But if we consider the aggregate number of men involved in disputes won by either party, it appears that while each side has, on the whole, gained somewhat more in 1896 than in earlier years, the increase of advantage to the workmen has been more pronounced than that of the employers. In other words, workmen have seemed to exhibit an increased ability, whether because of improved organization or for whatever reason, to win disputes involving large numbers of men. Allowing for the uncertainty of inductions from few data, the fact has at least a rather interesting suggestiveness, in view of the fact that disputes are likely more and more to involve large bodies of workmen.

The author of the report claims for it almost entire completeness. In contrast with earlier reports, we are assured that returns have been obtained for every dispute of importance in the period covered.

A. P. WINSTON.

The Laborer and the Capitalist. By FREEMAN OTIS WILLEY. New York: Equitable Publishing Company, 1897. 12mo. pp. viii + 311.

MR. WILLEY'S book, as hinted in the comprehensive title, sets out to discuss the relations existing between employer and employed. It does not aim to be a purely scientific treatise as may be seen from the suggestion that those who believe that the "book is true and fair and thoughtful" shall pay or "get some friend to pay" for the distribution of copies to "leaders of thought." The names of no less than 261,000 such leaders are said to be on file at the office of the publishers.

The point of view adopted by the author is what a German would term *rein kapitalistisch*, his sources partly the daily press and partly others equally as trustworthy, his style homiletic and hortatory, his fundamental doctrine the familiar, "Whatever is, is right." The idea of an overruling Providence which doeth all things well, and which orders economic events down to the minutest detail, is freely used. Crude economic optimism never found more open expression. No